

Service Date: January 27, 1998

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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IN THE MATTER of the Application of)	UTILITY DIVISION
U S WEST Communications, Inc. for)	
Authority to Flexibly Price Regulated)	DOCKET NO. D97.7.125
Telecommunications Services in Certain)	
Local Exchanges.)	ORDER NO. 5998b

ORDER VACATING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE AND ESTABLISHING RECORD

U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S WEST) filed a Motion on January 2, 1998 requesting the Montana Public Service Commission (Commission) to vacate the hearing scheduled to begin February 4, 1998, and to determine that the case should be decided on the basis of a stipulated record consisting of the prefiled testimony. Prefiled testimony consists of the testimony of two witnesses for U S WEST, Geraldine Santos-Rach and James B. Hayhurst, and one witness for the Montana Independent Telecommunications Systems (MITS), Mike Strand.

On August 5, 1997, the Commission granted U S WEST interim authority to flexibly price certain of its services being provided in U S WEST's Terry and Glendive exchanges. The interim approval was granted pending the outcome of the hearing and final decision in this Docket.

Including MITS, five parties requested intervention in this Docket. The other four are the Montana Consumer Counsel, AT&T Communications of the Mountain States, Inc., Montana Wireless, Inc., and MCI Telecommunications Corp. U S WEST's Motion states that all parties to this Docket have agreed that the prefiled testimony can be stipulated into evidence without

cross-examination or personal appearance by the witnesses and further, that all parties wish to be allowed to submit briefs in support of or in opposition to U S WEST's application.

In addition to the prefiled testimony, Commission staff issued data requests concerning the testimony of both U S WEST's witnesses. U S WEST filed responses to these data requests on October 7 and 10, 1997. These data requests and responses would have been introduced into the record at the hearing.

In a work session held on January 13, 1998, the Commission considered U S WEST's Motion, and voted to grant the Motion and to accept U S WEST's proposed briefing schedule.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The remainder of the Procedural Schedule in this Docket is vacated.
2. The Commission will decide the issues in this Docket on the following record:
 - a. The prefiled testimony of James B. Hayhurst, Geraldine Santos-Rach and Mike Strand; and
 - b. U S WEST's responses and supplemental responses to PSC Data Requests 001-012.
3. The parties shall submit briefs addressing the issues in this Docket according to the following schedule:
 - a. Simultaneous opening briefs due by February 3, 1998; and
 - b. Simultaneous answer briefs due by February 17, 1998.

DONE AND DATED this 13th day of January, 1998, by a vote of 5-0.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DAVE FISHER, Chairman

NANCY MCCAFFREE, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: Any interested party may request the Commission to reconsider this decision.
A motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See ARM 38.2.4806.